

Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 108706

EXDIS FOR THE AMB

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 9296 ACTION LENINGRAD STATE APR 28.

QUOTE ON CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 09296

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, CGEN, UR, US, KS
SUBJECT: SOVIETS RELEASE KAL PILOT AND NAVIGATOR

1. CHIEF SOVIET MFA FIRST FAR EASTERN DEPARTMENT KAPITSA
CALLED IN DCM AFTERNOON OF APRIL 28. KAPITSA
OPENED CONVERSATION BY STATING "WE HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU
FOR THE GREAT MAY 1 HOLIDAY" AND WENT ON TO MAKE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

--SOVIET INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND PILOT AND
NAVIGATOR ARE FREE TO LEAVE USSR;

--IN VIEW OF INTEREST SHOWN IN THEM BY U.S., THEY WILL BE
TURNED OVER TO U.S. OFFICIALS;
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--PILOT AND NAVIGATOR WILL BE MOVED FROM KEM' TO LENINGRAD
AND WILL BE TURNED OVER TO U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN
LENINGRAD APRIL 29 ON CONDITION THAT THEY LEAVE SOVIET
TERRITORY ON THE SAME DAY. TIME AND PLACE OF THEIR
TRANSFER TO U.S. CUSTODY WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO CONGEN
LENINGRAD BY DIPLOMATIC AGENCY IN LENINGRAD;

--CONGEN LENINGRAD WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ONWARD TRANSPORTATION TO POINT OUTSIDE USSR. UPON SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONING KAPITSA STATED THAT ONWARD TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BEST BE MADE FOR "SECOND HALF" OF APRIL 29;

--PILOT AND NAVIGATOR INSIST, IN MOST CATEGORICAL FASHION, THAT NO REPEAT NO NEWS BE RELEASED TO PRESS REGARDING THEIR WHEREABOUTS OR TIME AND ROUTE OF DEPARTURE.

2. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO AVOID PUBLICITY ON THIS DEVELOPMENT UNTIL PILOT AND NAVIGATOR HAVE DEPARTED USSR.

3. REQUEST LENINGRAD NOTIFY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR DEPARTURE OF PILOT AND NAVIGATOR LATER PART OF APRIL 29. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE FISCAL DATA FOR PURCHASE OF TICKETS. LENINGRAD SHOULD HAVE CONSULAR OFFICER ACCOMPANY PILOT AND NAVIGATOR TO FIRST STOP OUTSIDE USSR. TOON UNQUOTE VANCE

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